

Preventing
terrorism is
everybody's
business

How to Describe or Report Suspicious Behavior

Person

- ✦ Sex
- ✦ Race
- ✦ Height
- ✦ Weight
- ✦ Build (medium, heavy)
- ✦ Hair (color, length, include facial hair)
- ✦ Complexion (light, dark, olive)
- ✦ Peculiarities (scars, tattoos, missing limbs)
- ✦ Clothing (from head to toe, style, etc)
- ✦ Weapons (if any)
- ✦ Method of transportation (direction, vehicle, etc.)

Vehicle

- ✦ License Plate (most important)
- ✦ Year, make, model & color
- ✦ Body type (2 door, 4 door, van, SUV)
- ✦ Passengers (number of people in vehicle)
- ✦ Damage or anything unusual (logos, etc.)

DO NOT TAKE DIRECT ACTION

Call (202) 727-9099

OR

1-877-YOU-WATCH



METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
300 INDIANA AVENUE, NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20001
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METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, DC



A Program Designed to
Detect and Prevent Terrorism in
the Nation's Capital

WASHINGTON, DC



Anthony A. Williams
Mayor



Charles H. Ramsey
Chief

Here's a
“TIPP”
we can
all use

Why Operation TIPP?

It is no surprise that terrorism continues to be a threat in the United States. What may be surprising, however, is that some terrorists use materials and equipment that are generally available in the marketplace. Some terrorists may attempt to portray themselves as legitimate customers in order to procure the goods they need, while others may attempt to steal them.

In either case, it is usually an individual business or service organization that will be the first to notice something out of the ordinary. When that happens, it is critical that these suspicions be immediately passed on to law enforcement, so that the information can be examined, evaluated and, if necessary, acted upon.

That is why the Metropolitan Police Department created Operation TIPP (Terrorist Incident Prevention Program): to make it easy for businesses, service agencies and other organizations in the National Capital Region to get directly involved in terrorism prevention.

Operation TIPP has two key parts: 1) educating businesses within very specific industries on what to look out for in the way of suspicious activity related to their industry; and 2) providing easy and convenient ways—including a confidential toll-free telephone number (1-877-YOU-WATCH)—for businesses to report suspicious activity to the police.

The MPD encourages all businesses in the DC area to become familiar with Operation TIPP and to become actively involved in terrorism prevention.

What to Look For

If terrorists have demonstrated anything, it is innovation and creativity in devising ways to attack. There is no one plan of assault they are likely to use, but rather a wide range of possible methods that could be used. Terrorists almost always rely on the element of surprise, in an attempt to catch their targets off guard.

Operation TIPP tries to take away that element of surprise by educating and empowering the business community and others in knowing how to spot suspicious activity that may be related to terrorism.

The Metropolitan Police Department has identified more than four dozen separate industries and services that terrorists could potentially target. All of them have legitimate materials, equipment or services that could be misused by terrorists plotting an attack.

For each industry or service, the MPD has identified a number of very specific activities that may be of concern to law enforcement. Through Operation TIPP, the MPD is making this information available to individual businesses within the identified industry or service groups. This is accomplished through customized mailings to businesses, as well as coordination with major business and industry groups in the region. As a follow-up to the initial distribution of materials, the MPD is dispatching Distribution Information Teams to meet with individual businesses and organizations, to go over the materials and answer questions.

Finally, the Department is reminding all business owners, supervisors and employees on how to describe and report suspicious persons and vehicles (see the back panel of this brochure for more information).

What to Do

Recognizing and being able to describe suspicious activity is the first step in terrorism prevention. But by itself, that's not enough.

Businesses and other organizations need an easy-to-use, reliable and confidential way to provide their information to law enforcement.

Operation TIPP meets that need through a round-the-clock, toll-free Terrorism Prevention Hotline: 1-877-YOU-WATCH (1-877-968-9282). Alternatively, calls may be placed to (202) 727-9099. Information can also be mailed to the Intelligence Section of the Metropolitan Police Department, 300 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Calls to the Terrorism Prevention Hotline are answered by trained police professionals from the Metropolitan Police Department. All calls to the hotline are confidential, and callers need not provide their names or contact information. However, the MPD does encourage callers to provide their names, to support any follow-up investigations that may be needed.

The information that is collected is then forwarded to appropriate anti-terrorism officials in the MPD and, if appropriate, other law enforcement or homeland security agencies.

How You Can Help

The key to success of Operation TIPP—and, ultimately, the key to preventing terrorist incidents in our nation's capital—is cooperation between law enforcement and the community. Operation TIPP is an easy, but extremely valuable way to promote the sharing of information that can be critical to the early detection and prevention of terrorist plots.

But the program will be only as successful as the extent to which it is used by the community. Here are a few of the ways that the business community can help support this initiative:

Educate yourselves and your employees. The information developed for Operation TIPP is easy-to-read, easy-to-understand and customized for specific industry or service groups. Share the information with your executives, supervisors and line employees. Make sure they are clear on what they should be looking for, and what to do when they see something suspicious.

Ask questions. The Distribution Information Teams that the Metropolitan Police Department will dispatch to the community can provide a wealth of information about the program and terrorism in general. Take advantage of their visits and other resources. It's critical that all industry partners are well versed and vigilant in this area.

Use the hotline. Anti-terrorism leads are developed only when law enforcement has information to analyze and follow up. Generating useful information is the primary purpose of Operation TIPP, so it's critical that our partners use the hotline and other means for reporting suspicious activity. If you're not sure about whether something is really suspicious, go ahead and call. It's better to err on the side of caution.

Provide feedback. Operation TIPP is a dynamic program, and the MPD is constantly seeking ways to make the initiative better. If you have ideas on ways to improve the program, or have additional information that you think should be shared via Operation TIPP, please contact the MPD's Special Operations Division at (202) 671-6505.